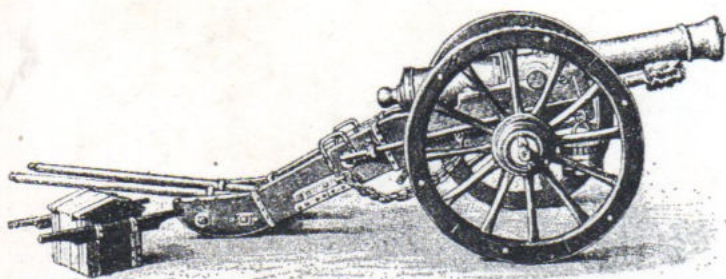


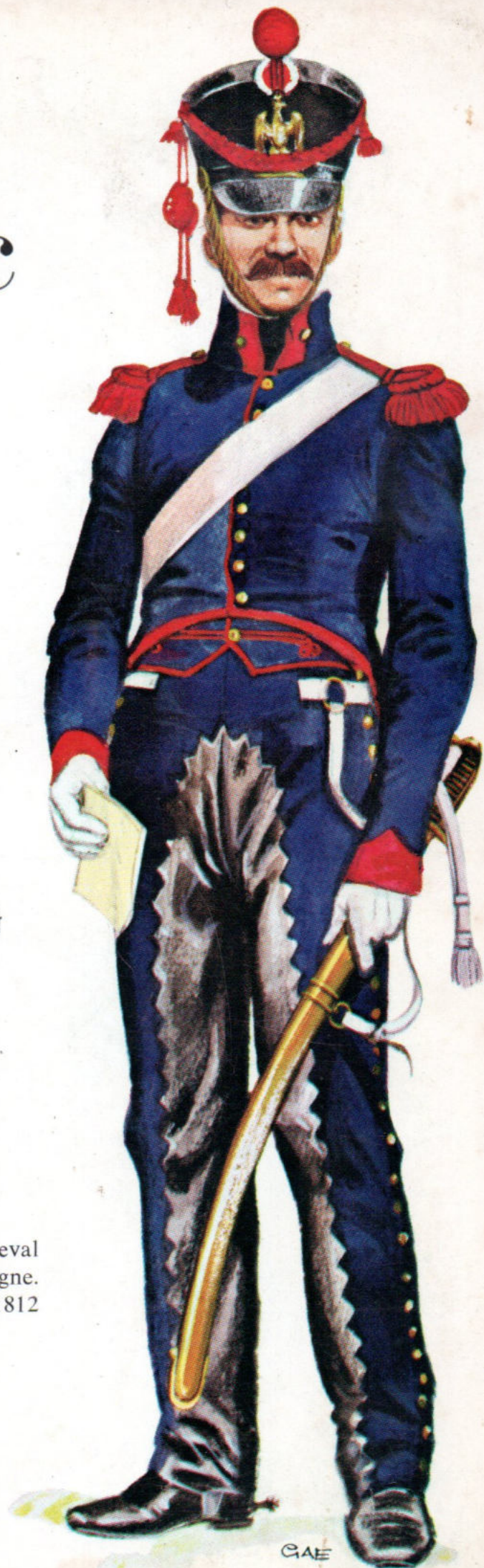
French Napoleonic Artillery

Michael Head



Artillerie à Cheval
de Ligne.
Cannonier 1810-1812

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Introduction

THIS publication presents in one volume a comprehensive account of the French artillery forces of the First Empire period. It illustrates and describes the guns and auxiliary transport equipment as well as the artillery arms and their uniforms of the campaigns which culminated in the Battle of Waterloo, 1815. French uniforms and dress regulations of the Napoleonic era were immensely complex, in the artillery no less than in the other arms. To make best possible use of the colour pages, therefore, individual garments and items are shown in the colour plates, while line drawings are provided to illustrate the appearance of the uniforms on the wearer. The book covers the years 1804-1815 and all changes in uniform detail are recorded. Where possible, descriptions of uniform in the text are keyed to the appropriate colour illustration or drawing. Thus it is possible to find the drawing quickly from the plate and reference letter. All the drawings of guns and transport vehicles are reproduced to 1:30 scale, specially for the modeller working with the standard 54-55mm size miniature soldier figures. As few relics of the guns and equipment survive, pictures of accurate high quality models are used in this book to give a vivid impression of what the actual equipment (and men) looked like.

Sincere thanks are due to Lynn Sangster of Historex Agents for his continued encouragement and assistance with the researches for this book. The photographs show Historex models, some by courtesy of Mr. Sangster. Thanks are also due to Frank Hinchliffe of Hinchliffe Models for the information on the unusual ambulances shown in the book. A. H. Bowling kindly loaned prints from his collection to add to the illustrations.

Lastly the author must thank his wife whose help in typing the draft manuscript was invaluable.

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Appendix 2: Table of Equivalent Ranks

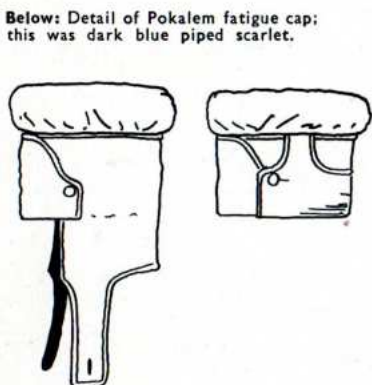
<i>French</i>		<i>British</i>
Colonel	Senior Officers	Colonel
Major		Lieutenant Colonel
Chef d'Escadron		Major
Capitaine		Captain
Lieutenant		Lieutenant
Adjutant	Sous Officiers	Warrant Officer
Marechal des Logis Chef		Sergeant Major
Marechal des Logis		Sergeant
Brigadier/Caporal		Corporal
Cannonier 1 ^{me} Classe		Bombardier/Lance Corporal
Ouvrier 1 ^{me} Classe		Drum Major
Tambour Major		Trumpet Major
Trompette Major		Corporal Trumpeter
Brigadier Trompette		Trumpeter
Trompette		Drummer
Tambour		Soldier (ie, Private)
Soldat		

Appendix 3: Alphabetical Glossary of terms and orders of dress

Aiguillettes	A cord shoulder strap with an ornamental knot from which loops of plain and plaited cords hung, fastening to a lapel buttonhole or to the chest.
Barrel sash	A waist sash worn with Hussar style uniforms passing through 'barrels' of a contrasting colour. It secured at the back by a wooden toggle and loop. Two cords went to the front fastening and ended in tassels.
Bicorne	A broad brimmed hat with the edges turned up on two opposite sides. Worn fore and aft or sideways.
Bonnet de Police	A cloth service cap or fatigue cap usually with a pointed top flap which was usually tucked into the side. See Pokalem.
Brass	Napoleonic period brass normally had a high content of copper and therefore had a distinctly reddish appearance. Yellow brass was also used however.
Brandenburgs	Lace edging to buttonholes, usually with a fringe.
Caisson	Ammunition wagon.
Breeches	Tight fitting trousers.
Carbine	A short barreled musket carried by most mounted troops.
Carbine belt	A leather shoulder belt with a swivel hook that attached to a ring which was carried in a slide on the carbine.
Chevrons	'V' shaped laces indicative of rank or service.
Cockade	A rosette which varied in colouring and layers or rings and which denoted nationality. The French cockade was blue centre, red, then white outer.

Colpack	A round fur busby usually with a 'bag' or flap on the top.
Contra epaulette	An epaulette without fringes.
Cuff slash	Oblong patch on round cuffs which closed the cuff fastening with three buttons. They could be plain or have one side with three points.
Czapska	Lancer cap of Polish origin with a square flap top.
Dolman	A tight fitting jacket of Hussar pattern with braiding across the chest.
Epaulette	A shoulder strap with fringed ends.
Flounders	(<i>Raquettes</i> , Fr.) Flat woven oval shaped decorations with tassels that were suspended by cords usually from headgear.
Gaiters	Cloth leg coverings. Fastened with buttons on the outer side and with a strap and buckle above the knee.
Girth	Wide band which held the saddle in place.
Grande tenue	Full dress.
Habit coat	Long or short tailed coat with a cutaway front.
Habit Kinski	This was a garment introduced in the 1810-12 period. It was a single breasted coatee fastened by nine buttons. It had piping in the appropriate colour down the front and along the bottom edge. Turnbacks were also in facing colours, usually with the grenade badges added for the artillery arm. Epaulettes were also worn. Actual colours depended on the arm—see main text and plates for description of colours and individual details.
Habit veste	Short tailed coat with a straight cut waist at the front.
Howitzer	A high trajectory weapon.
Hungarian knots	Elaborate braiding of interwoven circles on the front of Hussar style breeches.
Hussar boots	Soft leather boots curving up at the front and rear with a 'V' notch cut out at the front and a tassel sometimes hanging from the front.
Imperial livery	This was a coat of dark green cloth. The distinctive Imperial lace was worn on the collar, cuffs, turnbacks and pocket edges. On the arms seven bands of this lace were worn from the front seam around to the rear seam. On the chest double rows of lace, ending in a point were worn on the 1st, 3rd, 5th, 7th and 9th (that is the bottom) buttons. The Imperial lace is usually accepted as being yellow, edged with scarlet. On alternate squares appeared a green eagle and an 'N'. The squares were separated by black lines wider at the edges than at the

Below: Detail of Pokalem fatigue cap; this was dark blue piped scarlet.



Dark Green
Black
Scarlet
Yellow

Detail of Imperial lace: when worn horizontally the symbols were turned through 90 degrees.

Lentile	A flattened disc of wool worn in place of a plume.
Limber	A two wheeled carriage forming the front of a gun ensemble to which the gun itself was attached. The horses were fastened to the limber.
Musket	A smooth bore flint lock firearm usually with a bayonet attachment.
Pantalons à cheval	Trousers usually worn over the breeches to protect them. These were of various patterns, usually with coloured (or sometimes gold) lace and buttons down the outer seams depending on the arm or unit.
Pelisse	A fur trimmed jacket usually carried over the shoulders but worn in place of the dolman in inclement weather. When carried slung on the left shoulder the pelisse was attached by a wooden toggle on a scarlet cord on the left side, on to a looped cord on the right.
Pintle	An iron spike on the top of the limber on to which the gun trail attached.
Piping	A raised tubular length of material decorating the edges of pockets, cuffs, etc.
Pistol hoods	Carriers on the front of the saddle. Usually of two or three layers and decorated in the same fashion as the saddle cloth.
Pockets	There were various styles of pockets the main types being three pointed either vertical or horizontal.
Pointed lapels	Lapels which at the bottom followed the cutaway of the coat merging at the edge.
Pointed cuffs	Cuffs which rose to point and buttoned at the rear usually with one button on the cuff and the other above.
Pokalem cap	High, round cap with flap which could be let down and buttoned under chin.
Pom-pom	A spherical ball of wool worn in place of a plume.
Saddlecloth	Usually a square cut cloth worn under the saddle sometimes with pointed rear ends hanging down.
Sabretache	A leather case usually with a coloured cloth face, suspended on three straps from the sword belt.
Sapeur	Equivalent of the British 'pioneer'. Carried an axe and wore a leather apron.
Shabraque	A horse cloth which covered the saddle and usually had pointed rear ends.
Shako	Headgear with peak made of leather and felt.
Sous officier	Senior NCO.
Square cuffs	Cuffs which turned back equally all round the sleeve. Usually with a cuff slash (see illustrations for examples).
Square lapels	Lapels on a cutaway coat that ended at the bottom at 90° to the cutaway.
Surtout	Single breasted garment without lapels, buttoning at the front usually with nine buttons.
Sword knot	Strap on the hilt of a sword which passed around the wrist in action to prevent loss.
Tenue de campagne	Dress worn on active service.
Tenue d'ecurie	Stable dress.
Tenue de marche	Dress worn on the march.
Tenue de ville	Walking out or town dress.
Vandyking	Triangular cut edging usually to a sheepskin saddle cloth.
Velites	Recruits or trainees.

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by
Michael Head

A comprehensive guide to Napoleon's artillery arm, with details of the Gribeauval system of guns and ordnance, plus supply, support, and ambulance wagons, and the organization of the various artillery branches; full details of the uniforms are illustrated with eight colour plates and numerous line drawings, providing an immensely detailed reference work for modellers and military enthusiasts.

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